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For Immediate Release:  
Monday, December 6, 2004

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# Governor Vilsack announces state government focused on getting results for Iowans

*Governor adopts a new, more accountable budget process and acknowledges  
improvements to various state services*

**DES MOINES** – Governor Tom Vilsack announced today his latest reinvention initiative to get better results for Iowans. *Purchasing Results* is a new way of budgeting that focuses on what Iowans get for their tax dollars. All state spending will be tied to buying results

in six key areas: transforming Iowa's economy, improving student achievement, keeping Iowans healthy, ensuring Iowa's communities are safe, preserving the quality of our natural resources, and increasing government accountability.

"Iowans want to know if they are getting their money's worth from state government," Vilsack said. "We have a responsibility to Iowans to assure them every dollar spent is producing results for our state. This new approach will tie every dollar to a specific, measurable result, so we will all be able to feel confident in our government's accountability."

For each of the six results, a small 'buying team' will recommend how they would spend the state's scarce resources to maximize results. State agencies and others who receive state dollars have been asked to think of themselves as 'sellers' in the results marketplace. Their job is to make creative offers to the buying teams that will help produce the outcomes Iowans want.

"The state's budget has been reduced every year of my administration and we have still managed to make progress on our agenda for Iowa. We've added thousands of good jobs to our economy, strengthened our schools and made it possible for Iowans to enjoy safe, healthy lives in a clean, natural environment," Vilsack said. "The budget picture isn't getting any rosier. In order to continue providing the services Iowans want, we must find new ways to squeeze every inch of progress out of every dollar."

"In January, I will present the Legislature with a prioritized list of every offer we have received along with the evidence-based rationale for the priority order we have chosen," said Vilsack. "Then, we can make decisions about what Iowa can do with our limited resources. Legislators will have a better understanding of the outcome from spending a little more or less on a particular result."

In addition to unveiling the new budgeting process, the Governor acknowledged the success of a new state government tool designed to improve customer service, save taxpayer dollars and streamline departments' work processes. Nearly 60 state employees have participated in the [Leading Accelerated Change] training program, sponsored by the Iowa Reinvention Partnership, Public Strategies Group and staff from the Department of Management.

Outcomes from the training have been remarkable. Successes include the Department of Public Health launching a web-based license renewal, reducing turn-around time from three weeks to two days; the Iowa Finance Authority eliminated a three month backlog of applications for title guaranty certificates and now processes the applications in seven days; and the Iowa Veterans Home reduced incident report turn-around time from 54 days to two days.

"The Zoom program started us thinking out of the box," said Lois Churchill of the Department of Public Health. "We were able to streamline the social worker license renewal process and that set off a domino effect and turned professional licensure staff into out of the box thinkers. We intend to take what we've learned from the Zoom program and streamline all of the functions in our bureau."

Governor Vilsack also announced projects receiving grants from the Charter Agency Grant Fund and the Local Government Innovations Fund. The Charter Agency Grant Fund is a \$3 million fund set up by the Iowa General Assembly to support charter agency innovation projects. The Local Government Innovations Fund was created to support and encourage local governments to work together to combine services and reduce costs. The fund has disbursed \$975,000 in the form of loans and grants to municipal and county governments.

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